

SEMESTER AT SEA COURSE SYLLABUS

Colorado State University, Academic Partner

Voyage:	Spring 2019
Discipline:	Journalism and Media Communication
Course Number and Title:	JTC 412 International Mass Communication
Division:	Upper
Faculty Name:	Gary Rice
Semester Credit Hours:	3

Prerequisites: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will expose students to the news media around the world, with particular emphasis on the countries we visit. We will compare and contrast how the media operate; examine state-owned, privately owned and hybrid media operations; and look at the relationships between the media, the government and the public. How much of a role does the media play in the lives of readers, viewers, and listeners, and what impact does the media have on the way a country functions?

The class will analyze what the media covers and—just as important—what is not covered. What are the biggest stories in the world—and in individual countries—that are not covered or poorly addressed? We will examine the role of the international media by evaluating content, story selection, accuracy, thoroughness and consistency. Unconventional media, citizen journalism and use of the media as a political weapon also will be addressed.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- To develop an understanding of what constitutes news in different locales around the world.
- To grasp the importance of state influence on the media.
- To evaluate how the international media covers or does not cover global and country-specific issues.
- To determine the influence of social media and new media on how people get their news.
- Explore the issue of the use of media as a weapon.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOK

AUTHOR: William A. Hachten and James F. Scotton
TITLE: The World News Prism: Digital, Social and Interactive
PUBLISHER: Wiley Blackwell
ISBN #: 9781118809044

DATE/EDITION: 2015 9th Edition, paperback

TOPICAL OUTLINE OF COURSE

Depart Ensenada, Mexico — January 5

A1—January 7: Introduction of class and syllabus.

A2—January 9: Lecture: Journalists under fire: A historical perspective on the risks that journalists face around the world. Part 1.

A3—January 11: Lecture: How the media around the world covered the Pearl Harbor attack. Introduction of Independent Field Assignment #1 that includes Semester at Sea program at the Pearl Harbor Visitor's Center and 2-page double-spaced paper based on your observations of why the attack is so deeply embedded in the American psyche. Due Jan. 14

Honolulu, Hawaii — January 12

A4—January 14: Discussion of Pearl Harbor assignment, which is due this day.

January 16—International Date Line crossing (Lost Day)

A5—January 17: Lecture: Journalists under fire: A historical perspective on the risks that journalists face around the world. Part 2.

Study Day (No Class) — January 19

A6—January 20: Lecture: Media and world coverage: The big players then and now. A look at international wire services, networks and bureaus. Read printed handout from professor: "The Silencing of Japan's Free Press," Foreign Policy magazine.

A7—January 22: Lecture: Mass Media in Japan: Why do some call it "mass garbage," and how journalists covered a nuclear power plant disaster. Discussion of "The Silencing of Japan's Free Press." Independent Field Assignment #2: Collect and evaluate at least two newspapers, looking at where the publications place emphasis and how major stories of the day were covered. Write a two-to three page double spaced paper, due in class on Jan. 29

Kobe, Japan — January 24-28

A8—January 29: Lecture: Mass media and journalistic freedoms and restrictions in China and Hong Kong. Field Assignment #3: Find, pick up, compare and analyze English-language publications in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Write two to three-page double-spaced paper based on your observations. Be prepared to discuss at Feb. 6 class, when paper is due.

(Note: Field class proposal #2 for Shanghai (below) would alter this syllabus)

Shanghai, China – January 31 - February 1

In-Transit – February 2-3

Hong Kong, SAR – February 4-5

A9—February 6: Lecture: The State of the Media in Vietnam Today: Dissent, the Internet and government crackdowns, Part 1. Independent Field Assignment #3 is due.

Independent field assignment # 4: During your relatively lengthy stay in Vietnam, attempt to gauge the role of the media in everyday lives wherever you go. Are people reading newspapers? Listening to radio news? Spending their time on social media? Try to engage people your age that you run into in discussions about the media and the internet, and their take on the situation. Two-to-three page, double-spaced paper will be due and discussed in the Feb. 14 class.

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam – February 8-13

A10—February 14: Lecture: The State of the Media in Vietnam Today: Dissent, the Internet and government crackdowns, Part 2. Discussion of Independent Field Assignment #4, which is due.

Study Day (No Class) – February 16

A11—February 17: Lecture: Myanmar—One of the toughest places in the world to be a journalist. Part I Read handout from professor: “What is the future of the media in Myanmar?”, From “The Diplomat” magazine.

Yangon, Myanmar – February 19-23

A12—February 24: Lecture: Myanmar—One of the toughest places in the world to be a journalist, Part 2

A13— February 26: Lecture: State of the media in the world’s largest democracy: Does quantity far outweigh quality? Part 1. Reading assignments: Professor’s handout, “Indian media facing a crisis of credibility,” from Deutsche Welle and Chapter 8 from The World News Prism.

Independent field assignment #5: During your relatively lengthy stay in India, become a quick expert on Indian media. Look at as many print publications as you can, visit the media websites, watch TV and listen to the radio. Independent field assignment: Prepare a two-page doubled spaced evaluation of what you saw, read and heard. Ask the residents what they think. You can comment on points made in reading assignment as you prepare your paper. The paper will be due and discussed at March 6 class

Cochin, India – February 28 – March 5

A14—March 6: Lecture: State of the media in the world's largest democracy: Does quantity far outweigh quality? Part 2. Discuss and hand in paper from field assignment.

Study Day (No Class) — March 7

A15—March 9: Lecture: Media issues in Africa. Read Chapter 10 in *The World News Prism*

Port Louis, Mauritius — March 11

A16—March 12: Lecture: Evaluating and grading how the western world covers Africa.

A17—March 14: Lecture: The media in South Africa: During and After Apartheid. Part 1. Read professor's background handout on South Africa's media from Pressreference.com

A18—March 16: Lecture: The media in South Africa: During and After Apartheid. Part 2

Independent field assignment #6: South Africa has an extremely large media infrastructure. Dip into it a bit, and do a comparison/critique of three major newspapers. See what the big stories are in each paper, and how the papers covered it. Always good to query a few people and get their thoughts on the news media. Two to three pages double-spaced. Due March 24.

Cape Town, South Africa — March 18-23

A19—March 24: Independent Field Assignment #6 due and discussed in class. Reading assignment from professor's handout: "The Downing Street Memo."

A20—March 26: Lecture: "Propaganda and media as a weapon." Discussion of Downing Street Memo handout.

A21—March 28: Lecture: "How free is Ghana's media?"

Tema, Ghana — March 30 - April 1 See Field Class proposal #1

Takoradi, Ghana — April 2-3

A22—April 4: Lecture: Where the world is headed as far as media freedom.

A23—April 6: Field class #1 writing assignment due and discussed in class. Read chapters 11, 12, 14 and 15 in "*The World Prism*."

Study Day (No Class) — April 8

A24—April 9: Review for final exam, including lecture on status of media freedom in Morocco.

Casablanca, Morocco — April 11-14

A25—April 15: Final Exam

Arrive Hamburg, Germany — April 19

FIELD WORK

Semester at Sea field experiences allow for an unparalleled opportunity to compare, contrast, and synthesize the different cultures and countries encountered over the course of the voyage. In addition to the one field class, students will complete independent field assignments that span multiple countries.

Field Class & Assignment

[**Field Class proposals listed below are not finalized.** Confirmed ports, dates, and times will be posted to the Spring 2019 Courses and Field Class page when available.]

Field Class attendance is mandatory for all students enrolled in this course. Do not book individual travel plans or a Semester at Sea sponsored trip on the day of your field class. Field Classes constitute at least 20% of the contact hours for each course, and are developed and led by the instructor.

Proposal Title #1: Investigative Reporting in Ghana

Country: Accra, Ghana

Idea: Some of the most aggressive investigative reporting being done in Ghana is by Radio Station JOY, whose young, aggressive reporters are setting the standard for professional journalism in that country—and in some cases, risking their lives. This field class would include a tour of the radio station, and interviews with two or three top journalists who would address the mechanics of getting their stories and the difficulties of being a journalist in a country where a free, activist media is a relatively new concept.

Objectives

1. Explore the challenges of being an investigative reporter in a country not known for an aggressive media;
2. Hear first-hand how individual reporters go after tough stories;
3. Dig into what motivates and drives an aggressive journalist;
4. Gauge what effect an aggressive news media can have on a country and its people.

Assignment: Four-to five page paper that examines the history and status of relatively new investigative reporting in Ghana, based on the field class.

Proposal Title #2: Foreign and home-grown Journalism in Shanghai
Country :Shanghai, China

Idea: The vibrant megacity of Shanghai has dozens of foreign correspondents and freelancers from around the world, almost a dozen English language publications covering everything from sports to gourmet cooking and is a hub for Chinese television and print media. During a busy day on shore, the class makes three stops: the main newsroom of CCTV, the predominant state-operated broadcaster in China; Time Out Shanghai, a popular English language weekly that covers music, restaurants and other nightlife; and the BBC Shanghai Bureau, staffed by journalists from the world-renowned British news-gathering organization. Students will interact and interview journalists at all three stops.

Objectives:

1. Explore the depth and variety of the many journalists who cover all aspects of Shanghai;
2. Contrast foreign and domestic journalism and journalists in Shanghai;
3. Dig into the challenges and rewards of being a foreign correspondent;
4. Learn first-hand how reporters “get the story.”

Assignment: Four to five-page overview of the bustling journalism scene in Shanghai, covering the methods, influence and relevance of the people and outlets who report the news.

Independent Field Assignments:

You will pick four of the six port stops noted in the syllabus, and do assignments observing and evaluating media coverage. The idea is that when you return to the ship, you will have a better understanding of how the media works in that particular country.

Each of the four field assignment culminates in a written paper which will be discussed during the next on-board class meeting. The papers constitute 30 percent of your course grade.

METHODS OF EVALUATION

Field class —30%*

Independent field assignments—30%

Final Exam:-40%

*Attending and participating in the field class, and completing the assignment is required to pass this class.

GRADING SCALE

The following Grading Scale is utilized for student evaluation. Pass/Fail is not an option for Semester at Sea coursework. Note that C-, D+ and D- grades are also not assigned on Semester at Sea in accordance with the grading system at Colorado State University (the SAS partner institution).

Pluses and minuses are awarded as follows on a 100% scale:

<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Satisfactory/Poor</u>	<u>Failing</u>
97-100%: A+	87-89%: B+	77-79%: C+	Less than 60%: F
93-96%: A	83-86%: B	70-76%: C	
90-92%: A-	80-82%: B-	60-69%: D	

ATTENDANCE/ENGAGEMENT IN THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

Attendance in all Semester at Sea classes, including the Field Class, is mandatory. Students must inform their instructors prior to any unanticipated absence and take the initiative to make up missed work in a timely fashion. Instructors must make reasonable efforts to enable students to make up work which must be accomplished under the instructor's supervision (e.g., examinations, laboratories). In the event of a conflict in regard to this policy, individuals may appeal using established CSU procedures.

LEARNING ACCOMMODATIONS

Semester at Sea provides academic accommodations for students with diagnosed learning disabilities, in accordance with ADA guidelines. Students who will need accommodations in a class, should contact ISE to discuss their individual needs. Any accommodation must be discussed in a timely manner prior to implementation.

A letter from the student's home institution verifying the accommodations received on their home campus (dated within the last three years) is required before any accommodation is provided on the ship. Students must submit this verification of accommodations to academic@isevoyages.org as soon as possible, but no later than two months prior to the voyage.

STUDENT CONDUCT CODE

The foundation of a university is truth and knowledge, each of which relies in a fundamental manner upon academic integrity and is diminished significantly by academic misconduct. Academic integrity is conceptualized as doing and taking credit for one's own work. A pervasive attitude promoting academic integrity enhances the sense of community and adds value to the educational process. All within the University are affected by the cooperative commitment to academic integrity. All Semester at Sea courses adhere to this Academic Integrity Policy and Student Conduct Code.

Depending on the nature of the assignment or exam, the faculty member may require a written declaration of the following honor pledge: "I have not given, received, or used any unauthorized assistance on this exam/assignment."

RESERVE BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

AUTHOR: Central Intelligence Agency
TITLE: CIA World Fact Book (Vol. 1)
PUBLISHER: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
ISBN #: 1981957413
DATE/EDITION: 2018

AUTHOR: Central Intelligence Agency
TITLE: CIA World Fact Book (Vol. 2)
PUBLISHER: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
ISBN #: 1981957561
DATE/EDITION: 2018

AUTHOR: Central Intelligence Agency
TITLE: CIA World Fact Book (Vol. 3)
PUBLISHER: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
ISBN #: 1981957588
DATE/EDITION: 2018

FILM REQUEST:

None

ELECTRONIC COURSE MATERIALS

CIA World Fact Book 2018 (electronic edition)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Professor will distribute written handouts.